



State Representative Penny Bacchiochi

Dear Friends,

The 2005 legislative session for the most part was a good one for Somers, Stafford and Union.

Several measures important to the 52nd District became law and annual funding for local schools and road maintenance is up from last year. Supplemental grants for local school districts also were authorized under legislation I supported. The funding, which will be distributed to our towns in 2006 and 2007, comes from this year's \$777 million surplus. The grants are in addition to each town's annual Education Cost Sharing (ECS) grant.

- For the 2005 - 06 fiscal year, Somers' ECS grant amounts to \$4,814,820. Somers also will receive a supplemental \$98,721 education grant for the 2005 - 06 fiscal year under the legislation I supported. Somers will receive additional education funding totaling \$126,363 for the 2006-07 fiscal year.
- Stafford's ECS grant for the 2005-2006 fiscal year totals \$8,596,798. Stafford will receive a supplemental education grant amounting to \$83,464 for the 2005 - 06 fiscal year. For the 2006-07 fiscal year, Stafford will receive \$106,834 in additional education funding from the surplus.
- Union's ECS grant for the 2005-06 fiscal year amounts to \$201,842. Union will receive an additional \$1,960 in education funding from the surplus in 2005 - 06. For the 2006-07 fiscal year, Union will receive a supplemental education grant from the surplus totaling \$2,508.

Other grants include a \$3,500 arts grant that will help pay for a new sound system at the Somers High School auditorium and a \$3,500 grant for the Stafford Historical Society for matting and framing of at risk photographs. Thank you for the honor and privilege of representing you at our state legislature in Hartford.

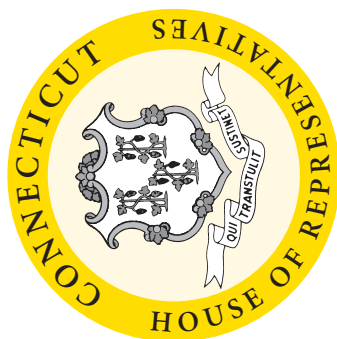
Sincerely,

Penny Bacchiochi



Rep. Bacchiochi, left rear, joins Stafford Board of Education members and Board of Selectmen at groundbreaking ceremonies for the new elementary school.

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State Representative PENNY BACCHIOCHI Proudly Serving the 52nd District Somers★Stafford★Union



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2005 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



State Representative
PENNY BACCHIOCHI
Proudly Serving the 52nd District
Somers★Stafford★Union



Rep. Bacchiochi stands for roll call at the opening day of the 2005 Legislative Session.

PROTECTING YOUR INTERESTS

Voting for Fiscal Responsibility

During the 2005 legislative session, as in previous years, I worked on behalf of the average family. I know how hard people work in our state. Connecticut has the highest federal, state and local tax burden per person as well as the largest per capita state debt.

State Budget

The legislature adopted a \$31-billion two-year budget that raised spending 9 percent the first year and 12 percent over two years. The budget increases taxes on employers and violates the state's constitutional spending cap. I could not support the excessive spending and tax increases this budget mandates.

Preserving Eligibility for STEAP Grants

I cosponsored a law that enables towns to continue qualifying for Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grants when they no longer meet all the program's eligibility criteria.

Fighting for Fair School Funding

I continue to fight for a more equitable distribution of state education aid to our towns to enhance the quality of education in our public schools. Under the current school aid formula the state sends \$9,000 per pupil to students in the cities, while suburban communities receive as little as \$100 per student.

Ethics Reform

The State Ethics Commission was abolished and replaced with a Citizens Ethics Advisory Board and an Office of State Ethics under an act I cosponsored.

Campaign Finance

I have worked to remove special interest money from political campaigns for many years and will continue to fight for this kind of reform in the future. Strict financial limits and full disclosure are a better approach than using our tax dollars for political campaigns.

Farmland Preservation

I voted for legislation that will help preserve and protect Connecticut's dwindling farm land and open space by allowing the agriculture commissioner to enter into joint ownership agreements with certain nonprofit organizations to acquire the development rights to qualified agricultural land.



Rep. Bacchiochi confers with Stafford Police Sgt. Thomas Duncan about a state grant.

Supporting Dairy Farmers

I cosponsored a law that adds two appointees engaged in milk processing to the Milk Board and requires the board to complete a comprehensive study of the dairy industry in Connecticut by January 1, 2006.

Coverage for Breast Cancer Screening

Health insurers are required to offer both mammography and magnetic resonance imaging as options for breast cancer screening for women with family histories of breast cancer under a new law I cosponsored.

Protecting Children's Health

To prevent children from being exposed to harmful chemicals, I voted for a law that prohibits the application of pesticides on the grounds of public and private schools, and child day care centers, except to eliminate an immediate threat to human health.

Supporting Our Service Men and Women

Any member of the armed forces stationed in Connecticut and his or her spouse, are eligible for in-state tuition at the University of Connecticut, the Connecticut State University, and the state's community-technical colleges under a law I cosponsored.



Representative Bacchiochi visits the new Stafford USA Boxing facility on Main Street in Stafford.



From left, Representative Bacchiochi and Senator Tony Guglielmo visit Stafford Historical Society members Isabell Zabanski and Rebecca Kraussmann.

Protecting Citizen Soldiers

I cosponsored legislation that provides workers compensation benefits to members of the Connecticut National Guard when they are called to active duty.

Consumer Protection

I cosponsored legislation prohibiting the sale of gift certificates with expiration dates to enable people who receive gift cards to redeem them when they choose to do so. I also voted for laws to help protect consumers from becoming victims of identity theft and bank fraud and to prohibit cell phone companies from disclosing a customer's cell phone number, name, or address to another person without the subscriber's permission.

Clean Diesel Plan

I supported an act requiring the state to develop a plan to reduce the health risks from diesel pollution and to meet federal air quality standards for fine particulate matter.

Clean Car Incentive Program

I supported legislation to require the Department of Environmental Protection to develop a plan to reduce the sales tax for new motor vehicles that have low greenhouse gas emissions.

Protecting Seniors from Exploitation

I cosponsored an act that classifies as an unfair insurance practice certain annuity sales practices where annuities are sold to senior consumers without regard to their financial situation or needs.

Nursing Home Fire Safety

To ensure the safety of nursing home residents, I voted for a law that requires nursing homes to install fire extinguishing systems by July 31, 2007 and requires them to be installed throughout the nursing home.

Supporting Social Clubs

Social clubs now have the option of conducting bazaars and raffles as fund-raising events under legislation I cosponsored.



Rep. Bacchiochi, right rear, and state Sen. John Kissel, R-Enfield, left rear, meet with Somers fourth graders at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford. The students were visiting the State Capitol on a class trip.